

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 ICA-20 AGRE-00  
AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 OPIC-06 STR-07 TRSE-00  
CEA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 XMB-04 /169 W  
-----097825 041915Z /42

R 041716Z AUG 78  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2911  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652:N/A  
TAGS: ECOSOC, OCON  
SUBJECT: ITEM 17 - FOOD PROBLEMS: DISCUSSION BEGINS

REF: (A) STATE 176976, (B) STATE 175713, (C) GENEVA 11749  
(D), GENEVA 11786

1. SUMMARY: CONSIDERATION OF 7/20/78 AGENDA ITEM BEGAN WITH STATEMENTS BY DIRECTOR VOGEL OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP) AND DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WALTERS OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE (WFC). TWENTY DELEGATIONS AND OBSERVERS JOINED IN DEBATE OF WFC AND COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID (CFA) REPORTS AS INTRODUCED BY AFOREMENTIONED OFFICIALS. COMMITTEE ADOPTED COLUMBIAN (SPOKESMAN FOR G-77) RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MEXICO DECLARATION TEXT OF WHICH TRANSMITTED TO DEPARTMENT VIA REFTELS C AND D. USDEL MADE STATEMENTS SUPPORTIVE OF WFC REPORT AND QUESTIONING WHETHER NEXT WFC IS MOST APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR CONSIDERATION OF FOOD TRADE ISSUES AT THIS TIME IN VIEW ON-GOING MULTI-NATIONAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. STATEMENT ALSO MADE SUGGESTING CHANGES IN BRACKETED LANGUAGE OF COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID (CFA-WFP) REPORT PER REFTEL B. COMMITTEE TOOK UNCLASSIFIED

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NOTE OF CFA REPORT AND CONSIDERATION OF ITEM CONCLUDED 8/2/78. END SUMMARY.

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSION WERE:

A. PHILIPPINES CALLED FOR DEVELOPED COUNTRY ATTACK ON FOOD AND NUTRITION PROBLEMS AFFECTING LDCS, AND

SUPPORTED ESTABLISHMENT OF 500,000-TON EMERGENCY GRAIN SUPPLY. ALSO CALLED FOR EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITIES. SETTING THEME FOR LDCS, HE NOTED THAT FOOD PROBLEM STUDIES COUNT FOR NOTHING WITHOUT POLITICAL WILL OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.  
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B. ARGENTINA ALLEGED THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES LACK POLITICAL WILL TO IMPLEMENT PLANS AND STUDIES. TOKYO TALKS AND RESULTS OF TALKS ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS DEMONSTRATE THIS POINT. NOTHING POSITIVE HAS EMERGED FROM THIRD STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON NEW WHEAT AGREEMENT BECAUSE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WILL NOT AGREE AMONG THEMSELVES. THE WFC REPORT CONTAINS AN IMBALANCE: IT SAYS LDCS NEED SPECIFIC AMOUNT OF AID, THEN NAMES SPECIFIC AMOUNT (ABOUT HALF THE FIRST ONE) THAT HAS BEEN SECURED TO DATE FOR FOOD AID. AGREEING WITH AIMS IN REPORT IS ONE THING; SUPPLYING EXAMPLE OF POLITICAL GOOD WILL IS EVIDENTLY QUITE ANOTHER.

C. EEC OBSERVER STATED IMPORTANCE OF REAFFIRMING BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL COMMITMENTS TO GIVE FOOD AID, BUT WITHOUT SPECIFYING LEVELS OR OTHERWISE RESTRICTING AMOUNTS. HE WAS PLEASED WITH DEFINITION OF PROCEDURE THAT WILL BE USED TO SUPPLY FOOD AID TO THE NEEDIEST. HE SUPPORTED CREATION OF THE 500,000 TON EMERGENCY RESERVE AND ITS ANNUAL REPLENISHMENT, NOTING THE GENERAL RESERVE  
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IS FOR CASE-BY-CASE USE.

D. DENMARK SPOKE FOR NORDIC GOVERNMENTS, APPROVING MEXICO WFC REPORT AND DECLARATIONS. THOUGH THIS CALLS FOR JOINT EFFORT, LDCS WILL HAVE TO BEAR BRUNT OF BURDEN THROUGH RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRARIAN REFORM, WITHOUT WHICH MORE AID WILL ACCOMPLISH LITTLE. HE EMPHASIZED BASIC HUMAN NEEDS AND NOTED THAT ROLES FOR WOMEN ARE VITAL TO SUCCESS OF ALL PROVISIONS OF THE MEXICO DECLARATIONS. TURNING TO FUTURE WFCs HE NOTED THAT PROVISIONS OF CURRENT DECLARATION WILL LIKELY SUFFICE AND THERE IS PROBABLY NO NEED TO SPEND SUCH TIME WORKING OUT NEW DECLARATIONS EACH TIME WFC MEETS. RATHER, NORDIC GOVERNMENTS WOULD PREFER TO HAVE DEBATE "AROUND THE TABLE."

E. UK CONCURRED WITH DENMARK, ESPECIALLY ON ROLE OF WFC AND THE UTILITY OF HIGH-LEVEL ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS. UK ADDED THAT THERE SHOULD BE MORE CONTRIBUTORS TO THE EMERGENCY FOOD RESERVE.

F. YUGOSLAVIA NOTED WFC REPORT GIVES A GLOOMY PICTURE. CERTAIN LDCS HAVE A POPULATION THAT GROWS

FASTER THAN THE PUNY INCREASES THEY MANAGE IN AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT. THEREFORE OTHER STATES HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO HELP. ECOSOC SHOULD DRAW ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS AND URGE ACCELERATED IMPLEMENTATION OF WFC DECLARATION. THIS WOULD REQUIRE GREATER POLITICAL WILL ON PART OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. HE URGED SPEEDY CONCLUSION OF A NEW WHEAT AGREEMENT TAKING ACCOUNT OF SPECIAL NEEDS OF LDCS.

G. NEW ZEALAND OBSERVED THAT WFP HAS MAINTAINED ITS

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REPUTATION AS AN EFFICIENT DISTRIBUTOR OF FOOD TO THE  
NEEDY.

H. USSR URGED WFC TO FOCUS ON RADICAL SOCIAL AND  
ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS, ESPECIALLY DEVELOPMENT OF  
COOPERATIVES.

I. CANADIAN OBSERVED THAT TO BE EFFECTIVE WFC SHOULD  
HAVE REPRESENTATION AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

3. ON JULY 21 DISCUSSIONS CONTINUED WITH STATEMENTS BY  
POLAND, MEXICO, JAPAN, FRANCE, FRG, ITALY, AFGHANISTAN,  
GREECE, IRAQ, ALGERIA AND USA.

A. POLAND SUPPORTED MEXICO DECLARATION AND WFC REPORT  
BUT POINTED OUT THAT PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO  
INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION OVER FOOD SECURITY MEASURES.

B. MEXICO SUPPORTS EMERGENCY FOOD RESERVES. EMPHA-

SIZED ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL FOOD TRADE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WFC AGREEMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WERE STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION.  
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C. JAPAN REPORTED DIFFICULTY IN ACCEPTING GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA SET OUT IN COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID REPORT AND THAT COMMENTS WOULD BE MADE AT 6TH SESSION OF CFA.

D. FRANCE ASSOCIATED WITH EEC REMARKS. REPORTED SPECIAL CONCERN OVER DIFFICULTIES OF SAHELIAN COUNTRIES AND HAD RESPONDED TO APPEAL FOR EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE.

E. GERMANY SUPPORTED WFC BUT RECOMMENDED IT LIMIT FUTURE SESSIONS TO THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF 3 OR 4 MAIN TOPICS. SUPPORTED CFA REPORT AND REPORTED FRG CONTRIBUTION OF DM 63 MILLION TO WFP.

F. ITALY MADE SUPPORTIVE STATEMENT RE WFC AND REQUEST FOR 500,000 TONS EMERGENCY RESERVE ON PERMANENT BASIS.

G. AFGHANISTAN CHARGED THAT MANY MANILA COMMUNIQUE PROVISIONS REMAINED UNIMPLEMENTED AND APPEALED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF BOTH MANILA AND MEXICO RECOMMENDATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

H. GREECE STATED GROWTH RATE OF FOOD PRODUCTIONS CONTINUED TO DECLINE IN LDCE BUT WAS ENCOURAGED BY FORMATION OF IFAD IN 1977, INCREASE OF FOOD AID TO NEEDY COUNTRIES AND NEAR-ATTAINMENT OF WFP TARGETS FOR 1977-78.

I. IRAQ REPORTED PLANNED 7.1 PERCENT GROWTH RATE IN ITS AGRICULTURAL SECTOR FOR 1976-1980 PERIOD. IRAQ SUPPORTED MANY OF WFC RECOMMENDATIONS BUT WAS CONCERNED ABOUT PROTECTIONISM. ALSO, IT PUSHED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMON FUND-

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J. ALGERIA DECRIED HAGGLING OVER ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMON FUND AND GROWING PROTECTIONISM. STATED LDCE SUFFERING CONSEQUENCES OF DISAGREEMENT AMONG DCS.

K. USA STATEMENT TAKEN FROM REFTEL A.

4. AGENDA ITEM NOT SCHEDULED AGAIN UNTIL AUGUST 1 DUE TO PRESS OF COMMITTEE'S OTHER BUSINESS. RE CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT PROPOSAL TRANSMITTED BY REFTEL C: AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH G-77, WHO WERE SPONSORS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION, RESOLUTION FINALLY ADOPTED ON AUGUST 2. USDEL MADE STATEMENT RE PARA 5 OF RESOLUTION NOTING THAT WHILE USG BELIEVED FOOD TRADE QUESTIONS ARE IMPORTANT, THEY ARE BEING ADDRESSED IN OTHER FORA, I.E. MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND QUERIED WHETHER IT WAS APPROPRIATE OR NECESSARY TO CONSIDER THEM IN WFC AT THIS TIME. NEW ZEALAND DELEGATE STATED THOUGH MTN DISCUSSING FOOD TRADE, THAT SEEMED TO BE NO BAR TO ITS CONTINUED CONSIDERATION BY WFC. USSR AND FRG RECALLED PREVIOUS GA POSITIONS RELATING TO RESOLUTION JUST ADOPTED. WHEN CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON FOOD PROPOSED THAT COMMITTEE TAKE NOTE OF AID (CFA) REPORT, DOCUMENT E/1978/90 STATEMENT WHICH PER REFTEL B (A) REITERATED US POSITION PER PARA 2 REFTEL B; (B) SUGGESTED SUBSTITUTION BRACKETED LANGUAGE IN PARA 18B OF CFA REPORT, PER PARA 3E(4) BY PHRASE QUOTE ON A MULTI-YEAR BASIS END QUOTE; ALSO SUGGESTED SUBSTITUTION OF BRACKETED LANGUAGE IN PARA 18C BY WORD QUOTE GENERALLY END QUOTE PER PARA 3 F REFTEL B. ROBERT FRALEIGH, DEPUTY EXEC DIRECTOR, WORLD FOOD PROGRAM REQUESTED AND WAS GIVEN COPY OF USDEL STATEMENT. COPY ALSO BEING POUCHED TO P.B. BYRNES, STATE/IO. NO OTHER DELEGATIONS MADE A STATEMENT.

4. CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM CONCLUDED 8/2/78.

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## Message Attributes

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